

## From the Army Acquisition Executive

### *Charting the Way Forward for 2006*

**A**s we face the challenges of a new year, while still waging the global war on terrorism, it's important to recognize the tremendous achievements the Army made in 2005. The Acquisition, Logistics and Technology Workforce reached many milestones in its quest to bring the best technology to the world's best Army. We have moved forward with the implementation of Future Combat Systems, which is continually redefining what comprises a fully integrated, network-centric fighting force. This initiative provides our Soldiers with capabilities unprecedented in the spectrum of modern warfare. We made significant gains in the areas of science and technology, deploying such breakthrough innovations as Blue Force Tracking and Force XXI Battle Command Brigade and Below across the force, allowing our battlefield commanders to use real-time satellite communications on the move to keep our forces connected despite harsh climatic conditions and extremely high operations tempo. We continue to answer Secretary of the Army Dr. Francis J. Harvey's transformation challenge, using tools such as Lean Six Sigma and value stream analysis to streamline our business processes and make America's Army the most effective and efficient in history.

This issue contains articles highlighting some topics that will continue to drive Army Acquisition Corps transformation, namely, the Life Cycle Management Commands (LCMCs) and innovations in Army medical research and medical combat care.

#### **LCMCs**

Since their inception in August 2004, the LCMCs have addressed the special challenges faced by an Army at war. Called on to anticipate and address future needs, the LCMCs have the mandate to meet the pressing immediate demands of our Soldiers — doing both with high quality, rapid turnaround and low cost. The life-cycle management initiative provides the integrated, holistic approach necessary to meet these challenges.

To date, we have established four LCMCs: the Aviation/Missile LCMC in Huntsville, AL; Communications/Electronics LCMC at Fort Monmouth, NJ; Soldier/Ground Systems LCMC in Warren, MI; and the Joint Ammunition LCMC at Rock Island, IL. A Chemical Materials Agency LCMC and Ammunition LCMC are also being considered for implementation. These commands seek to bridge the gap between the acquisition and logistics communities, bringing better quality products to our Soldiers faster and where and when they need them most. The LCMCs' key feature is that they provide "one bellybutton" for the Soldier to reach out and touch.



In this issue, you will find an interview with a key LCMC concept architect, GEN Benjamin S. Griffin, Commanding General (CG), U.S. Army Materiel Command (AMC). He will discuss AMC's Logistics Modernization Program, providing logistics and maintenance support to a modular Army and AMC's real-world response to natural disasters that ravaged the Gulf Coast last fall. His perspective will provide you with firsthand accounts of the progress being made, the way forward for LCMC implementation and how this concept has changed the way we provide goods and services to our combatant commanders and their Soldiers.

Another key leader, MG John M. Urias, former Joint Contracting Command-Iraq/Afghanistan (JCC-I/A) CG, discusses how the JCC-I/A is supporting security, humanitarian relief and reconstruction efforts in Iraq. MG Urias passed the mantle of leadership to his successor MG Darryl A. Scott, former Defense Contract Management Agency Director, Feb. 2, 2006, during their recent change of command ceremony.

#### **Army Medical Research**

As we have learned throughout the course of *Operations Enduring* and *Iraqi Freedom*, the price of victory is often paid in human sacrifice. Continuous innovation in our medical research is critical to ensure that our Soldiers receive the best care humanly possible. This issue contains articles that chronicle many of the medical breakthroughs that allow us to respond to a constantly changing threat environment and battlefield conditions. You will read about progress toward the development of a ricin vaccine, which will serve to protect our Soldiers against the silent killers inherent to bioterrorism. You will also read how we are taking advantage of medical evacuation robots to safely transport our injured Soldiers out of firefights and combat situations that would prohibit conventional methods of recovery or evacuation and potentially place our combat medics at greater risk.

As we look ahead to the coming year, it is imperative that we continue to constantly innovate, improve and impact the development of our products and services to best meet the needs of our Soldiers. We must embody the challenge and responsibility of thinking and acting in new ways to remain one step ahead of our enemies. I echo Secretary Harvey's remarks — "We stand in awe of our Soldiers and look forward to 2006 to continue the tremendous progress we have made in transforming the Army — all while our Soldiers continue to fight and win the global war on terrorism." Let us continue our endeavors in 2006 to support the fight, improve the force and build the future. HOOAH!

**Claude M. Bolton Jr.**  
Army Acquisition Executive